

Congressman Jim Costa
855 M Street, Suite 940
Fresno, CA 93721

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A Healthcare Message From Congressman Jim Costa



There will be crucial healthcare reform votes in Washington, DC during the latter part of this year.

The House is expected to vote first. Then the Senate will take up its own version. After that, lawmakers will work to resolve differences between the two proposals and produce a final bill for our consideration.

It is likely to be weeks or even months before Congress votes on this final measure. Before then, I would very much appreciate getting your thoughts on the issue.

So please take a minute to fill out the enclosed questionnaire, put it in an envelope and mail it to Congressman Jim Costa, 855 M Street, Suite 940, Fresno, CA 93721.





United States Representative Jim Costa

Fresno Office
855 M Street, Suite 940
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: 559-495-1620
Fax: 559-495-1027

Bakersfield Office
2700 M Street, Suite 225
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: 661-869-1620
Fax: 661-869-1027

Washington, DC Office
1314 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3341
Fax: 202-225-9308



Dear Friend:

Healthcare reform is critical. I have been talking to constituents about it for many months.

But much as I would like to, I can't talk to everyone face-to-face. So I am sending you this questionnaire.

As you know, and this constituent survey demonstrates, healthcare reform is a complex issue. While not everyone agrees on the approach, it is nearly unanimous that the healthcare system is broken and needs repair.

It is also clear that reform must cut costs – both for our families and for the government.

In my opinion, to put Valley families first, any proposal must also address four key elements: availability of catastrophic care, ability to keep your coverage if you change jobs, preventing insurance companies from denying coverage or charging more because of patients' medical history or current condition, and coverage that encourages preventive measures.

It must also improve our Valley's healthcare services and availability.

There are many other aspects of healthcare reform. I hope you will take a minute to share your thoughts about them with me.

Sincerely,



Congressman Jim Costa

 Please help me keep you
up-to-date on issues.
Just go to
<http://www.costa.house.gov/>
and sign up for my
e-newsletters.



Jim Costa's healthcare constituent questionnaire

Do you currently have health insurance? Yes No

If you have health insurance, do you receive coverage through Medicare or Medicaid? Yes No

If you have health insurance, are you satisfied with your coverage? Yes No

Do you believe the most important issue for healthcare reform is reducing the cost of healthcare for both families and government? Yes No

Do you believe we need healthcare reform to keep Medicare and Medicaid from going bankrupt? Yes No

Should healthcare reform be enacted all at once or over a period of years to make sure it works as intended? Yes No

Do you support requiring insurance companies to allow individuals to keep their health coverage when changing jobs? Yes No

Are you in favor of premium discounts for those who engage in health behaviors such as maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking and managing chronic illnesses like diabetes? Yes No

Should insurance companies be prohibited from refusing coverage or renewing policies based on pre-existing conditions or health status? Yes No

Should resources go to expanding and improving the healthcare workforce through more physician training, scholarships and loans for those healthcare professionals who enter areas that have shortages? Yes No

Does your employer provide your health insurance? Yes No

Are you in favor of employer-mandated health insurance? Yes No

Under the existing healthcare system, do individuals have the necessary information to make informed and appropriate decisions? Yes No

Should individuals who do not have healthcare insurance be required to buy it? Yes No

Should there be a government-sponsored, public option for health coverage? Yes No

Should there be a government-sponsored healthcare system for all Americans? Yes No

Do you think that government sponsored health insurance would be of lower quality than that of a private insurer? Yes No

Should the government subsidize businesses that cannot afford to provide health insurance to their workers? Yes No

Do you support encouraging doctors and hospitals to list their prices? Yes No

Would healthcare reform would mean less access to specialists and diverse medical care professionals? Yes No More access? Yes No

Would you support insurance market reforms that prohibit rate increases based on health status, gender, occupation or age? Yes No

Do you support a federally funded expansion of Medicaid and Medicare? Yes No

Medicare currently compensates doctors on how many tests and procedures they order. Is evaluating treatment efficiency a better option? Yes No

Are you in favor of states capping healthcare spending by reducing Medicare payments in areas where spending is above the national average? Yes No

Would you support surcharges on alcoholic beverages and soda drinks to raise funds to pay for healthcare reform? Yes No

Should health insurance have simpler, cheaper and fairer contracts to encourage competition among companies? Yes No

Do you support capping compensation in medical malpractice lawsuits if it limits overall healthcare costs? Yes No

Do you believe that individuals should receive tax deductions for their healthcare insurance premiums? Yes No

Would you support affordability credits for working poor and middle class families in order to make health insurance more affordable? Yes No

Would you support a tax on families making over \$250,000 to pay for healthcare reform? Yes No

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